

REMARKS

Initially, in the Office Action dated March 26, 2004, the Examiner has objected to claim 17 because of a typographical error. Claims 1-28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,571,092 (Faccin et al.).

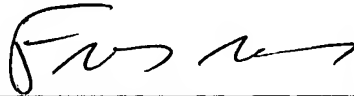
By the present response, Applicants have amended claims 1, 14 and 29 to further clarify the invention. Claims 1-4, 7-17 and 19-29 remain pending in the present application.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, and the amendments and remarks submitted in the August 26, 2004 Amendment, Applicants submit that claims 1-4, 7-17 and 19-29 are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of such claims are respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (referencing attorney docket no. 1135.40953X00).

Respectfully submitted,

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